



Seventh Generation Fund accepting applications

The Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples is an identity-based organization dedicated to the self-determination of Native peoples and the sovereignty of their distinct nations.

To that end, the fund supports Indigenous-initiated and led community based organizations and projects aligned with its program areas: arts and cultural expression, environmental health and justice, human rights, intergenerational leadership, sustainable communities, and women's leadership.

The Arts and Cultural Expression category provides support to grassroots Native communities and cultural arts organizations. Priority is given to holistic community health and cultural renewal efforts using traditional and contemporary art forms to express cultural diversity.

Grants will range from \$600 to \$5,000, and application deadline is Sept. 15.

Visit www.7genfund.org for program guidelines and application instructions.

Powwow season

The season of traditional gatherings continues into the fall. Events include:

- North American Indian Alliance Powwow: Sept. 12-13 at the Butte Civic Center; 406-782-0461 or www.butteciviccenter.com
- Native American Awareness Days: Sept. 16-18 at the People's Center in Pablo; 406-675-0160 or www.peoplescenter.org
- Annual People's Center Celebration and Powwow: Sept. 23 at the People's Center in Pablo; 406-675-0160 or www.peoplescenter.org
- Last Chance Community Powwow: Sept. 26-28 at the fairgrounds in Helena; 406-439-5631 or lastchancepowwow.com

Blackfeet Community Foundation hosts annual Harvest Moon Ball

The 18th annual Harvest Moon Ball Art Auction and Gala is Saturday, Sept. 20, at the historic Glacier Park Lodge in East Glacier. The evening includes a hosted reception followed by an elegant dinner, art auction and a dance to end the evening. Tickets are \$75.

The auction features artists such as Ernest Marceau, Lyle Omeasoo, David Dragonfly, Barbara Gerard-Mitchell, Algie Piapot, Valentina LaPier, Darrell Norman, Merle Big Bow, John Pepion, Monte Yellow Bird Sr., Kokko Kuka, and others, with masks by this year's featured artist, Stacey Gilham Keller. Artisan booths offer hand-crafted jewelry, apparel, artwork and more.

The annual event is a fundraiser to build a permanent endowment for the Blackfeet Community Foundation, established by Louise Cobell in 1994. Income from the endowment is used for community projects.

For more information, call 406-338-2992, email info@harvestmoonballmt.com or visit www.harvestmoonballmt.com.

Fellowship program helps artist transform studio

It's hard not to notice the changes in Darrell Norman's art studio and gallery at the Lodgepole Gallery and Tipi Village in Browning.

Where there once was bad lighting, uncomfortable chairs and cluttered floor space is now an organized studio with a fresh coat of paint, shelving units, a workbench and comfortable seating.

"It's a great new studio and it's functioning beautifully," said the Blackfeet artist, who was able to make the changes this year through a First Peoples Fund Artist in Business Leadership Fellowship.

Norman, a Native artist from the Blackfeet tribe in Montana, has been creating contemporary and traditional art based on the Blackfeet design for 35 years. A past First Peoples Fund Community Spirit Award honoree, Norman makes and sells a wide variety of mixed media art forms, including drums,

shields, hides and wood, stone, and bone sculptures.

Norman is a three-time Artist in Business Leadership fellow, a former Cultural Capital fellow, an honoree of the Montana Circle of American Masters, and an Outstanding Alumnus at North Seattle Community College.

"I needed this update to my studio," he said. Prior to the changes, some of his work sat on the floor because of the lack of space. "It was out of control."

The support from First Peoples Fund has changed the trajectory of his career, Norman said.

"My partnership with them is tremendously important, not only the funding, but the support they give you," he said. "It takes you to another step, up another level. It helps you with your productivity."

Being connected with the organization is a source of strength and pride, he added.

"Being associated with First Peoples Fund helps," he said. "It does a lot for your reputation."

Norman said he has greatly benefited from one of the organization's main goals – to bring Native artists together to encourage and share with each other.

"It's one of the greatest things," he said, because it is inspiring to meet with other Native artists who share the same passions. "Native artists are doing incredible things."

Norman said his work with First Peoples Fund has also given him a stronger voice in his community.

"The things they do to inspire people in their

communities prolongs our traditional forms," he said. "It contributes to the longevity of our culture."

Norman is now in the midst of the busy summer tourist season – his gallery is just 15 miles from Glacier National Park. "My studio is right off the gallery, so people can come see me work," he said. "They see that it's nice and organized and it really does influence them."

To read more about Norman, visit his website at www.blackfeetculturecamp.com.

Source: www.firstpeoplesfund.org

Deadline Sept. 1 for First Peoples Fund programs

Artist in Business Leadership Program

Purpose: To cultivate entrepreneurial artists to a small business level (consistent and reliable income) where business concepts are understood and applied.

The strategy: First Peoples Fund selects artists based on demonstrated artistic talent, evidence of possessing the qualities of an entrepreneur, and indication of embodying the values of the fund. This self-directed, independent business arts fellowship

is a one-year program supported by individualized professional development training, and working capital funds to strengthen participants' marketing strategies. The fellowship also provides a focus on new work.

Eligibility: Artist applicants must be in mid career (five-plus years) in their experience in marketing their art at Indian art markets and galleries, and have wholesale experience. Artists will have chosen art as a means to obtain economic self-sufficiency and to establish themselves as independent, credible artists with viable community-based business-

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for State of the Arts

es. They must be members of approved tribes (see below); and must demonstrate a strong vision and articulated plan for implementing effective market strategies over the one-year fellowship period and will effectively use this opportunity to explore new works and demonstrate marketing initiative effectively.

Cultural Capital Program

The purpose: This program provides traditional bearers of tribal communities the opportunity to further their important cultural work. The program is designed to support previous year Community Spirit Award recipients, allowing them to commit more time to teaching and sharing their ancestral knowledge and practices with others who want to learn.

The strategy: The grant program will aid artists in developing local networks for leveraging other resources and will provide technical assistance and capacity-building support as needed by the master artist/teacher.

First Peoples Fund is interested in Cultural Capital projects that will impact the next generation through reciprocity and community spirit.

Eligibility: Artist applicants must be a past FPF Community Spirit Award recipient or nominee finalist, or a member of an approved tribe (see below). Applicants may also be invited by FPF or nominated by a Community Spirit Award recipient.

For both grants

Grant amounts: \$5,000

Application deadlines: Sept. 1, 2014

Tribal affiliation: Applicants for both awards must be members of a Northern Great Plains tribe (including Montana), the Eastern Plateau region of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, the Great Lakes Region, or Eastern Seaboard states, or be Native Hawaiian or belong to an Alaska Native tribe. Affiliated Canadian First Nations artist applicants are eligible.

For more information, visit www.firstpeoplesfund.org, call 605-348-0324 or email miranne@firstpeoplesfund.org.

Rabbit Knows Gun offers Ledger Art Workshop

In an effort to carry on the tradition of ledger art, Crow artist Rabbit Knows Gun is partnering with Q's Art Shop and Gallery in Billings to offer a workshop Sept. 8, 15 and 22.

Ledger art represents a transitional form of Plains Indian artistry corresponding to the forced reduction of Plains tribes to government reservations, roughly between 1860 and 1900. Due to the destruction of the buffalo herds

and other game animals of the Great Plains during and after the Civil War, painting on buffalo hide gave way to works on ledger paper, muslin, canvas, and occasionally commercially prepared cow or buffalo hides.

During this workshop, Knows Gun will share his

knowledge and teach participants about ledger art with the goal of educating a new generation about this important art technique. Each participant will be given ledger paper over 100 years old and other supplies to create their ledger art piece. The cost is \$60 and includes all supplies.

Knows Gun has over 20 years of experience in the arts. He is the co-author of the book, *Inspirational Work of a Montana Native American Artist*. For more information, call Knows Gun at 406-598-3630 or John Armstrong at 406-248-1102.



Mask by Stacey Gilham Keller, featured artist at this year's Harvest Moon Ball.



Darrell Norman in his remodeled studio.

(Photo by Angelika Norman)